

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 CEA-02 STR-08 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 SCI-06 SCEM-02 INT-08 NEAE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5232

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS BEIRUT 13169

USIA FOR IOR/M, IBS, IPS, INE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CEASE-FIRE ACCORD IS BANNERED IN ALL NOV. 15 PAPERS, EDITORIALS ON DIPLOMATIC MOVES CONTINUE TO TAKE CAUTIOUS TONE. ANNOUNCEMENT THAT TWO-TIER GOLD MARKETING SYSTEM IS BEING ABANDONED ELICITS SOME COMMENT, WHICH CALLS THIS MOVE --NEED ONE GUESS? -- REPRISAL FOR ARAB OIL BOYCOTT.

2. ON ARAB VIEWS OF ISRAELI AND AMERICAN POLICY, LEADING INDEPENDENT ARABI AN-NAHAR WRITES: "ISRAELI REFUSAL (TO RETURN TO OCT. 22 LINES), IF IT OCCURS, WILL BE PART OF POLICY OF EXTREMISM AND INTRANSIGENCE WHICH GOLDA MEIR'S UNCLASSIFIED

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GOVERNMENT ISCSNQULING # BY SOFXSOF #

ITS CRISIS-RIDDEN

AND WOUNDED INTERNAL SITUATION AND ITS FEAR OF QUICK ARRIVAL AT PEACE CONFERENCE.... IF THIS SITUATION WITHIN ISRAELI LEADERSHIP IS PLACED NEXT TO DAILY THREAT OF COLLAPSE THAT AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP IS GOING THROUGH, PICTURE THAT EMERGES FOR ARABS IS NOT REASSURING. ALTHOUGH NEWS OF MILITARY OFFICERS' MEETINGS IS POSITIVE, THE TWO STATES MOST CLOSELY RELATED TO MIDEAST CRISIS ARE SUFFERING FROM STRAINS AT LEADERSHIP LEVEL.... WARKNESS IN AMERICAN AND ISRAELI LEADERSHIPS IS WHAT EGYPTIANS FEAR AND WHAT BRINGS THEM TO EXPECT SURPRISES, INCLUDING RETURN TO FIGHTING." PRO-CAIRO AL-ANWAR WRITES: "BETWEEN OPTIMISM EXPRESSED BY KISSINGER CONCERNING COMING PEACE CONFERENCE AND STUBBORN ATTITUDE OF ISRAELI OFFICIALS EXISTS A CONTRADICTION THAT IS HARD TO EXPLAIN OR JUSTIFY UNLESS WE CONSIDER ONE OR PERHAPS BOTH OF TWO PARTIES INSINCERE IN WHAT WAS AGREED TO JUST BEFORE CEASE-FIRE. BUT HOW CAN WASHINGTON BENEFIT FROM 'BLUFFING' AND TO WHAT DEGREE CAN ISRAEL CONTINUE IN ITS STUBBORNNESS...? IN THE FACE OF THIS ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE AND AMERICAN OPTIMISM, WHAT IS REQUIRED OF ARAB STATES? TO PREPARE FOR RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING, BECAUSE THIS IS ONLY LANGUAGE THAT CONVINCES ISRAEL, AND TO CONTINUE OIL PRESSURE, BECAUSE THIS IS ONLY LOGIC THAT CONVINCES SOME WESTERN STATES..."

3. ON ABANDONMENT OF TWO-TIER GOLD MARKETING SYSTEM, INDEPENDENT FYNCFAS-SAFA
WRITES: "IF PRICE OF GOLD WERE TO CONTINUE TO DROP DURING NEXT FEW DAYS, ABANDONMENT OF 1968 AGREEMENT MIGHT ALSO DEAL HARD BLOW TO ARAB COUNTRIES HOLDING SIGNIFICANT STOCKS OF GOLD, FOR THEY WOULD NOT HAVE COVERED THEMSELVES SUFFICIENTLY. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, IT COULD BE ASKED WHETHER BASEL DECISION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE, ALONG WITH OTHER STEPS, RIPOSTE TO OIL BOYCOTT OF WEST BY ARABS." PRO-WEST AL-HAYAT TAKES SAME LINE: "MOST DANGEROUS BATTLEFIELD IN ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT IS THAT OF MONEY. MONEY IS WHAT MAKES WAR.... WASHINGTON HAS ANNOUNCED END OF 'GAME' OF DOUBLE MARKET FOR GOLD.... 'FREE' PRICE OF GOLD FELL IMMEDIATELY. THIS FALL, WHICH WILL CONTINUE, WILL IMMEDIATELY AFFLICT THOSE WHO HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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BOUGHT GOLD IN FREE MARKETS AND STORED IT WITH GREAT FINANCIAL LOSSES. SOME FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES LIKED TO REPEAT THAT GREAT RISE IN GOLD PRICES IN RECENT MONTHS WAS CAUSED BY GREAT DEMAND FOR IT FROM OIL COUNTRIES OF MIDEAST** IN OTHER WORDS, GAME WAS ARRANGED BASICALLY TO ROB ARABS OF ANOTHER PART OF THEIR RICHES." BUFFUM

NOTE: BEIRUT 13169; #PARA. 2. AS RECEIVED. CORRECTIONS TO FOLLOW.

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